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I.

CANCER UTERI—OPERATION.

*Extirpation of Cancer of the Uterus, performed at the Massachusetts Hospital, and reported by the House Physician for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

MAY 5, 1829.—Mrs. L. S., of S., æt. 38, somewhat more than eight months since, began to notice uncommon feelings in some of the pelvic organs,—pains extending from the uterus, as she supposed, to the right hip, and down the right thigh. Not long after this she had more discharge than usual from the vagina, which, from her description, must have been purely transparent mucus. In about four weeks the discharge began to change in its character, appearing somewhat bloody; its quantity increased in the mean time, and pains were sometimes severe in the small of the back and in the right groin and thigh. She felt herself failing in strength and activity.

Being now alarmed, she applied for surgical advice. An examination was made per vaginam, and the source of all the trouble at once detected. She was apprised of her situation, and of what she might expect to ensue.

On examination at the Hospital, the whole neck of the uterus was found thickened and tender; the *fungus* was connected to the right

side of the neck of the uterus and to the vagina for some distance; considerable hemorrhage was caused by examination. She has had ten children,—the last now three years old, and nothing unusual occurred at its birth,—and has borne them with a great degree of ease. General health has ever been unusually good till the last eight or ten months. She is now pale, lips rather exsanguous, eyes sunken, and the whole countenance expressive of great anxiety. Appetite various and capricious; pulse small and feeble.

May 6.—Ride from S. yesterday has produced a favorable effect; feels stronger than she has for some time before.

R. Pro inject. Decoct. Carotæ, et sepe repetetur.

The above preparation was used several times during the day, but on account of the pain it produced, the following was substituted:—

R. Tinct. Opii, 3 iij.  
Infus. Sem. Lin. 3 xij. M. et rep. si. opus sit.

7.—Much more comfortable to day. Pain was mitigated by the opiated injection.

10.—Strength and appetite have improved since coming into the house.

12.—Consulting surgeons assembled to-day, and after making a careful examination, advised to an operation, as being the only alter-

*native* that promised the slightest prospect of saving life.

13.—The patient, after being fully apprised of the *danger* and *uncertainty* of an operation, was left to consult her own feelings, and submit or not as she chose.

14.—Patient chose to undergo the operation, which was performed to-day at 11, A.M., by Dr. Warren, in the following manner:

—The patient was placed upon the edge of the operating table, having her head and shoulders considerably elevated, and supported by pillows : her legs were flexed, knees separated, as far as they could be without producing too much uneasiness, and firmly supported. All things being now ready, the operator proceeded to dilate the external organs, as the *first step* in the operation : this being fairly accomplished, he then introduced into the vagina the two first fingers of the left hand, which were to serve in directing a *pointed hook* which was introduced with the right, and with which was now transfixed the neck of the uterus. Having proceeded thus far in the operation, a gradual force was applied for the purpose of dragging the uterus downward into view. The uterus being drawn down as far as seemed practicable, the operator retained it in this position, and with a common scalpel in the right hand, made a circular incision round the neck of the organ, removing with it about half the body and a portion of the diseased vagina. Just as he was making the last incision to complete this part of the operation, there was a tremendous gush of arterial blood, but the hemorrhage soon moderated. The whole hand being now introduced, some portions of the diseased part were found remain-

ing ; these were removed with a hook and pair of tonsil scissors. No opening could be found through the peritoneum or bladder ; the latter organ sunk into the vagina so as to be distinctly seen. The operation now completed, a sponge was placed in the vagina, and the patient removed to her ward.

After she was here, she continued almost in a state of syncope for two or three hours, after which there was considerable reaction. Pulse 100, and sufficiently full : had some color in the face. At 10, P. M., pulse nearly as before ; rather thirsty ; did not complain of great weakness ; said she had a frequent desire to void urine, and believed she had passed some, two or three times since the operation. An examination was made, and the sponge protruding from the external organs was saturated with urine. A catheter was passed into the bladder, but the organ was empty ; Ordered gruel and diluent drinks ; if faint and low, stimulants and cordials.

15.—Pulse 104 ; abdomen tense and very sensible to pressure ; has some control of the urinary organs ; no hemorrhage ; no dejection ; slept some last night.

R. Infus. Sen. Comp. 3 iv. Statim.  
Pill. Hyd. Subm. Comp. vesp.  
sum.  
Appl. Abdom. Foment. Si opus  
sit.

16.—Pulse 120, small and feeble at the wrist ; countenance much sunken and cadaverous ; one dejection yesterday from the cathartic ; no hemorrhage ; abdomen very tender ; rested but little during the night ; had stimulants.

R. Pill. Hyd. Subm. quaq. hora  
stia.  
Appl. Cerat. Canth. 7 a 9, Ab-  
domini.

Bathe in warm spirit and water.  
Drink brandy and water, or wine.  
Take for nourishment beef tea or  
broth.

17.—Stomach was very irritable yesterday,—almost everything was thrown up from it ; complained of but little local pain, but of great general uneasiness. Sunk gradually till about 4, P. M., before which time the pulse, at times, could not be felt at the wrist, after which there was some little reaction. At 11, P. M., began to sink again, and continued so to do till she died this morning at about 8.

18.—*Post-mortem Examination* by Dr. Warren, twenty-four hours after death, in company with Dr. Channing and the house Physicians, Parker and Gould, etc.—The abdomen was opened. The serous coat at the upper part of this cavity very slightly inflamed ; toward the pelvis the inflammation was severe. No effusion of lymph was discovered, nor any step toward adhesion in any of the parts. Peritoneum, in the neighborhood of the uterus and covering the bladder, considerably inflamed, but not sufficiently to produce death. All the uterus, except the fundus, was removed : this was perfectly free from the disease, no portion of which could be found remaining.

This is the first operation for removing cancer of the uterus which has been practised here ; and, though not successful in its termination, it warrants the belief that this very dangerous and terrible operation may succeed. This patient did not die of inflammation, nor gangrene or lesion of the peritoneum, but probably from the effects of the bleeding ; yet she survived this for three days, and had she not been greatly exhausted be-

fore the operation by the pain of her disease, and the debilitating discharges accompanying it, she would undoubtedly have recovered.

—The operation should be done at as early a period of the disease as possible.

## II.

### *Spontaneous Cure of Cataract.*

By J. B. ESTLIN, F.L.S.

ON the 6th of June, 1825, I operated upon a man and woman, (brother and sister), both of whom had been blind for eight years with fully-formed cataracts. From the man, who was 56 years of age, I extracted both cataracts ; but in the sister's case, as much difficulty was occasioned by the flatness of the cornea and the smallness of the anterior chamber, and as the operation on the right eye had proved more tedious than was desirable, I determined upon leaving the left eye untouched for some days. She was 66 years of age, and of delicate constitution. Her recovery, however, was very rapid, and the sight was so good that she declined having anything done to the left eye. In less than three weeks from the operation she returned to her home, in Glamorganshire, nearly fifty miles from Bristol, quite well, and able to read.

The brother's recovery was more protracted. The father of these patients had also been the subject of cataracts.

In a few weeks after her departure, I had the power of visiting the female patient at her own residence, and found her possessed of good vision in the eye which had been operated upon. I had also occasional opportunities of

hearing afterwards that she retained her sight. She was furnished with some Vin. Opii, to apply to the eye whenever she found it weak or inflamed.

Some months ago she sent to me for a supply of her drops, in consequence of their having proved of great service to her *left* eye, in which the sight was stated to be returning. Supposing that there was some mistake in this representation, I requested the Rev. E. P. Thomas, the respectable curate of the parish where she lived, to oblige me with some particulars respecting her; and by him I have been favored with the following minute statement:—

"About Michaelmas last (1828) one night, while in bed, Mrs. Lewis was seized with a most violent shooting pain in the middle of the left eyebrow, which occasionally descended to the eyeball; it did not affect any other part of the head, nor did it pass through the head; she has a distinct recollection that the pain was confined to the dark eye and its brow, in consequence of her fears having been excited lest the pain should extend to the eye on which the operation had been performed, and prove injurious to her sight. She has no remembrance of having received any injury, or of having come in contact with any object. She had a cold about the period of the attack, but not a severe one.

"The violent shooting pain before described continued for about a fortnight, when she was induced to apply the drops to the left eye. In a few minutes after the first application the pain ceased, and she continued free from it for some days; it then returned, but in a less severe de-

gree, and she was again relieved by the use of the Vin. Opii. A recurrence of the pain at intervals continued, but with diminished severity; and at length it ceased altogether.

"At the end of a fortnight after the first use of the drops to the left eye, she began to see with it. The first objects she discovered were the trees in the garden, which she saw through the window of her apartment. In the course of a week after, while walking in her garden, she could discern the bee-hives, and in a few days more she could perceive the bees. She is now able to read small print," (whether with or without her cataract glasses is not stated—the former, I presume); "and since about the middle of last November she has experienced no pain. The eye upon which the operation was performed has continued free from pain, but it is at times so dim that she cannot read with it. This occasional dimness, before the recovery of sight in the left eye, also gave her great anxiety, lest she might altogether lose the power of seeing with it. The drops always relieved the inconvenience."

"The left eye has no diseased appearance, looking in all respects like that from which the cataract has been extracted."

The account of this case affords satisfactory evidence of the spontaneous removal of a cataract. It would be interesting to know whether the lens was dissolved and absorbed *in situ*, or whether an opening in the capsule allowed of its passing into the anterior chamber, and there undergoing solution. The former occurrence is more probable, as the presence

of an opaque lens, with its nucleus undivided in the anterior chamber, generally keeps up a more constant state of irritation than is described in this instance.

Few, I believe, now entertain the idea that any stimulating application to the eye can exert an influence in producing the absorption of a cataract. This case favors no such opinion, as the Vin. Opii was not used until the symptoms accompanying the process of the removal of the cataract had existed for two weeks. The relief of similar symptoms, by the application of this liquid, is a well-known occurrence; and it is not to be wondered at that the patient and her friends should attach an importance to its efficacy to which it has no claim. Medical men, however, do not want examples to show the necessity of extreme caution in judging of the effects of remedies.

As a practical remark, connected with the subject of operations for cataract, I would observe that where *extraction* is performed, I consider the advantage of the patient to be greatly consulted by his not having both eyes operated upon at the same time.—*M. Gaz.*

pain nor tenderness throughout the remainder of the joint, although there was a general fulness and tumefaction over the whole synovial membrane. She could neither straighten the limb nor bend it, without great pain; the slightest motion, or any attempt to bear weight on it, occasioned very great pain in the joint; the thigh and leg were much wasted; and she could find no easy posture for the limb, the half-bent position being that in which it was the least painful. She suffered so much at night as to impair her rest. She was of a fair complexion and delicate appearance. Pulse quick, tongue foul, bowels irregular, and the appetite impaired. She was evidently laboring under considerable disorder of the digestive organs. About a month before she applied to me, she first experienced a pain in the joint, which was tender and extremely painful on exercise. These symptoms increased daily, notwithstanding the use of various remedies, such as embrocations, the application of a blister to the joint, &c. Purgatives, leeching, fomentations, &c. &c., were now had recourse to, and absolute rest strictly enjoined.

8th.—The bowels have been regularly relieved by the medicines, the tongue is less coated, and appetite somewhat improved. The tenderness, pain, and swelling, are so much reduced, that the knee is now in a fit state for mechanical support, agreeably to Mr. John Scott's directions.

Applied the adhesive bandage, and ordered a tonic mixture and laxative pills.

20th.—The joint is much reduced in size; pain and tenderness

### III.

#### INFLAMMATION OF THE KNEE.

*Treated according to the Plan of  
Mr. SCOTT, and communicated  
to the Medical Gazette.*

A YOUNG WOMAN, 28 years of age, applied to me on the 30th of July, 1828, on account of a disease in her left knee. A spot on the inner side of the head of the tibia was so exceedingly tender, that she could not bear to have it touched. There was neither

very much relieved, and her health improving. The mixture and pills continued; the knee supported with adhesive bandages.

23d.—In consequence of attempting to walk, the pain of the joint has returned.

Removed the dressings. Ten leeches to the knee; fomentations and cataplasms twice a day.

27th.—The pain and tenderness relieved; can move the joint without suffering.

A small quantity of Tartar Emetic Ointment to be rubbed on the knee, previous to the application of the adhesive bandages.

Oct. 2d.—She has felt no pain, except a slight smarting produced by the application of the ointment. The limb can be moved without any uneasiness, and her nights are no longer disturbed.

30th.—Continues to improve.

Adhesive bandages as before.

Dec. 27th.—The joint is now reduced to the natural dimensions; she has not the least feeling of uneasiness in it, and can walk and use it perfectly.

Feb. 6th, 1829.—Continues quite well.

#### IV.

##### *Experiments on Living Animals.\**

[In transferring to our pages the following allegorical comment on a mode of investigation not uncommon in the profession, we have been influenced more by its ingenuity than its justice.]

I HAVE lately read with much interest a treatise "on the operation of poisonous agents on the

living body." The experiments therein detailed are of a pleasing nature, and the results strikingly important and valuable. Being myself friendly to the cultivation of experimental physiology, indeed, I may say, zealous in the cause, I have, by the help of persons similarly disposed, performed a great number of experiments on living animals. Some of these I lay with much satisfaction before the profession, inviting, at the same time, such of my brethren as find the subject amusing, to repeat my experiments. The importance of the conclusions I have deduced, renders a repetition of them the more to be desired.

*Experiment 1.*—Having an ear peculiarly fitted for the nice discrimination of sounds, I had often remarked the very peculiar cry of the dog when suffering exquisite pain. In order to ascertain if this particular sound were modified in the varieties of the canine race, I had six dogs arranged in the following order, at intervals of a yard,—mastiff, hound, spaniel, terrier, setter, pug. The right eye of each being scooped out, and a hot ember put into the socket, the effect was immediate and surprising, and I may add, gratifying. It is difficult to convey an idea of it in words,—this, however, is the less to be regretted, as the experiment is easily repeated. I may just observe that I have discovered that boiling linseed oil poured into the ear elicits the sound in question, to the full as instantaneously.

*Experiment 2.*—The power of resistance in the valvuli coli has often been discussed, but not, so far as I know, ascertained with precision. To determine this

\* Medical Gazette.

point I procured four terriers, nearly of a size, and arranged them thus;—the œsophagus of one, separated and brought out, was inserted into the anus of another, and secured so as to make the alimentary passages of the four into one continuous canal. A forcing pump being adapted to the fundament of the hindmost dog, and a known force employed, I found a column of water, equal to ten pounds, force the valve of the first dog; one equal to forty pounds, the second valve; one hundred and sixty pounds, the third; six hundred and forty pounds, the fourth, and so on,—the force required increasing in a geometric ratio. A few handfuls of small fish-hooks, thrown into the water employed, excited a variety of interesting contortions in the dogs.

N. B.—Coarsely pounded glass may be used instead of the fish-hooks.

*Experiment 3.*—The degree of heat requisite for separating the hair from the skin of a living animal not having been satisfactorily determined, I procured six rabbits, which I treated as follows:—Two, immersed to the neck for one minute in water at 180 deg., shed only the finer down in consequence. Another pair, completely immersed for the same space of time, at the temperature of 206 deg., easily parted with the whole of the hair, except the whiskers. The remaining couple, immersed at the boiling point, furnished the same result as the preceding two. I now put the entire six into an empty stew-pan, heated to 400 deg., with the view of ascertaining what degree of heat would cause their whiskers to fall off. On taking out the

animals after five minutes had elapsed, I found they were unfortunately dead, with the beard burnt and quite friable, but still adhering at the roots. The latter point, therefore, namely, the degree of heat at which the whiskers of the rabbit fall off, will require further experiments; and I have the gratification to announce to the profession generally, that a series on this interesting subject are now being performed by two able friends and myself, which will be published as early as possible.

In conclusion, I cannot help alluding to the objections which some make to experimental physiology on the score of cruelty. It seems to me doubtful whether the inferior animals are really susceptible of pain in the sense meant by the objectors. At least I think their struggles, and the noise they make in the hands of the operator, may be explained on a very different principle, which I mean to enlarge upon at a future opportunity. S.

## V.

### TIC DOULOUREUX.

#### *Discussion on this Subject in the Medical Society of London.*

DR. RAMADGE related a case of tic douloureux, brought on in a male patient, 40 years of age, by the external application of zinc and copper, for the purpose of producing a galvanic sensation. Most excruciating pain in the cheek, passing across the eye, towards the frontal sinus, was thus produced. There was a spot in the red part of the upper lip, which, upon being touched, the pain was excited. The patient was of a plethoric habit, and had

lived rather freely. For some time he had suffered from dyspepsia. The treatment consisted in extracting blood; the exhibition of laxatives, followed by the use of the carbonate of iron, combined with the carbonate of soda. The complaint was entirely removed. The pain, in this case, did not run along the course of the nerves usually affected, but perpendicularly.

Dr. James Johnson, after remarking that neuralgic affections were much more frequent than they had been, noticed paralysis of the *portio dura* of the seventh pair of nerves, as an affection that was occasionally occurring. It occasioned drooping of the eye; the drawing up of one side of the face had, in some of these cases, excited fears in the minds of the friends as to the existence of cerebral disease; but the disease was in the branches of the nerve spoken of. The disease was sometimes of long duration. In one case eighteen months elapsed before the power of the nerves was restored. Another case went on for nine months. Dr. J. had seen other cases. Some attention was required to be paid to the eye; for, as the patient could not shut the eye, it remained unclosed during sleep: it required, therefore, to be shut previous to the patient's going to rest; otherwise, the eye remaining open, inflammation of the organ took place. In these cases the sensation of the part was not diminished, the nerves affected being nerves of motion, not sensation. There was another affection of these nerves, or the muscles which they supplied, which consisted in a constant twitching of the part of the face to which the branches of the nerve were distributed. The

disease, in all the cases which had fallen under Dr. Johnson's observation, had been induced by "a draught of cold air;" it was a state of irritation of the muscles, rather than a paralytic affection. No treatment had, in these cases, appeared to be of any use.

Dr. Shearman observed that *tic douloureux* had, of late years, been much more frequent than formerly, or that transient painful affections had been dignified with "*tic douloureux*." He (Dr. S.) had found the ext. belladonnae a very efficacious remedy in the disease in question; the dose he had given was about two grains every eight hours.

Mr. Shearly remarked that he had used, in this disorder, opium, combined with belladonna, externally; exhibiting, also, the carbonate of iron every eight hours. In one case Mr. S. gave, with success, strong camphor mixture, combined with the ammoniated tincture of the valerian and the pilula gummosa.

Mr. Taunton and Mr. Iliff adverted to some cases related by Mr. Bailey, of Harwich, in which belladonna had been given. That gentleman had begun with quarter-grain doses.

Mr. Drysdale mentioned a case of *tic douloureux* occurring in a lady. After all the usual remedies had been tried in vain, the disease was removed by the use of a hot pillow.

Dr. Ryan related cases of *tic douloureux* in which he had seen stramonium used internally and externally with benefit. Dr. R. was surprised that contra-irritation at the base of the brain by setons, perpetual blisters, &c., had not been resorted to in neuralgic affections.

## SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

## COLICA PICTONUM.

A WRITER in the London Medical and Physical Journal advances the opinion that this disease indicates inflammation of the intestinal canal, and should be met with remedies calculated for the relief of inflammation, such as general and local bleeding, fomentations, &c., instead of the usual purgative treatment. With regard to the latter, it is said that it excites an ineffectual effort in the canal, productive of increased local determination and aggravation of all the symptoms. In the case adduced in support of this theory, salts, calomel, and rhubarb, had been administered, without producing any cathartic effect; the disease had reached the sixth day, and was rapidly increasing. The medicines were discontinued; ten ounces of blood were taken from the arm, and eighteen more by cupping from the abdominal surface. The appearances were improved by this treatment, but no evacuation followed. Next day the cupping was repeated on the abdomen, to the extent of thirty ounces; and the fomentations and enemata were continued. At the succeeding day's visit it was found that the bowels had been evacuated six times, with relief from the pain. The case afterwards did well.

That the disease called painter's colic is frequently accompanied with inflammation of the intestines, there is no reason to doubt; and where this is the case, the antiphlogistic mode of treatment ought certainly to

be resorted to. Many cases of the disease occur, however, in which no symptom of inflammation is to be found, and in which the same mode of treatment would be useless or injurious. With regard, also, to obtaining evacuations from the bowels, we apprehend that in the majority of instances some of the cathartics in common use will effect this object; and as it is important to avoid delay, the remedies calculated to produce a direct effect on the canal, are preferable to those the operation of which is more uncertain. These considerations ought always to induce practitioners to make trial, in the first instance, of cathartic medicines, properly so called, in conjunction with such other treatment as the circumstances of each particular case may seem to require. Dr. Good, who gives a very judicious view of the disease, proposes three indications in its treatment,—to subdue inflammation, if present; to relieve pain, and to restore the due peristaltic action of the bowels. That this latter object cannot always be answered by purgatives, we are well aware; but those cases in which they fail so to do, are to be at once regarded as alarming in their character, since a large proportion of them resist every mode of treatment which can be devised. Even in the case above referred to, the direct purgative treatment seems hardly to have received a full trial, and might, if persevered in, have proved ultimately successful. For our own part,

we have seldom failed to cure the disease by the free administration of Extr. Hyoscam. and Epsom salts, with cold affusion to the lower extremities.

#### SUPPRESSED PERSPIRATION.

#### *The Effect of powerful sudden Impressions made on the Surface of the Body.*

THE notion that febrile diseases are frequently produced by suppressed perspiration is probably as old as the science of medicine; but the severity of the application of this principle has, we apprehend, rather diminished in later times. To a certain extent the system of most persons is able to sustain the shock of cold applied to the perspiring skin, without injury and even with benefit. The hardy Russian quits his vapor bath, heated to 130 deg., and plunges fearlessly into the snow; and even the most delicate and tender find a cold bath more grateful and more beneficial when a little previous exercise has produced a tendency to the surface. The momentary reaction which is thus produced, so far from disordering the functions, will be found, in most instances, materially to aid their performance. But to infer from these facts that sudden changes may, under all circumstances, be encountered with impunity, would be a fatal error, since in debilitated subjects they are often followed by the most disastrous effects. The following, though an extreme case, will illustrate the danger of this sort of imprudence, better than any reasoning on the subject.

A carpenter, about 40 years of age, was affected with an extensive leprosy-eruption. After trying various remedies to no purpose, he at length commenced the use of sulphur fumigation. Having taken a bath at the house of Mr. Green, Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, in London, he walked thence to the Hospital in a cold easterly wind. This was the 17th of December. On the same evening he was attacked with symptoms of fever, which the next morning were found very much increased, and accompanied with those of pulmonary inflammation. Blisters and antimonials were resorted to, with occasional doses of calomel and other medicines which the case seemed to require; but to little purpose. He died on the 24th of the month, the eighth day of the disease. The most remarkable post-mortem appearance was that of half a pint of serum, mixed with pus, contained in the cavity of the left pleura. The corresponding lung bore marks of severe recent inflammation, corresponding to the symptoms which were present during life. The right side of the chest was free from disease.

#### ERGOT OF RYE.

ACCORDING to Dr. Marshall Hall, this article possesses considerable control over chronic uterine discharges. In a very severe case of menorrhagia, alternating with leucorrhœa, which had continued, with occasional variation in degree, for four years, the ergot was given in doses of five grains, four times daily, beginning just before the expected ap-

pearance of the catamenia. This was retarded in its appearance for four days, was moderate in quantity, and not followed by the leucorrhœa, which in fact entirely disappeared. In several cases in which this last disease existed by itself, the ergot was employed with decided success. The benefit of the remedy is usually experienced at the end of five days, but it is best to persevere in its use for a somewhat longer period.

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#### POISONING BY ENDERMIC MEDICATION.

Two cases are recorded in the journals in which the external use of corrosive sublimate was followed by fatal consequences. Two brothers, affected with a cutaneous eruption resembling itch, attempted its cure by rubbing into the skin the muriate of mercury, previously mixed with hog's lard. The quantity of the sublimate used by each was about an ounce. It produced vesication of the parts to which the ointment was applied, severe pain in the bowels, with other symptoms of extensive inflammation, dysenteric discharges and sanguineous vomiting. Death ensued in the first instance on the eleventh day; in the second on the fifth. On examination of the last, the stomach and small intestines were found highly inflamed, with small spots of ulceration in the former. The lower portion of the colon and rectum were in a state of complete mortification, and there was a great quantity of bloody serum in the cavity of the abdomen.

#### ACETATE OF LEAD.

SOME interesting facts and speculations, in regard to this substance, are contained in a late number of the Medical Gazette. With the view of ascertaining how far the apprehensions entertained from its use in large quantities were well founded, a medical gentleman administered it to himself, at the rate of ten grains a day for seven days, combined with opium in the proportion of one-eighth part. After he had taken this quantity, pains were produced in the bones, and the mouth became sore, as in mercurial ptyalism. The former symptoms yielded to a moderate dose of sulphate of magnesia, and the latter went off at the end of a few days. The intestinal affection produced in this instance had not the usual symptoms of painter's colic. Indeed it seems to be well established, that the timidity which has been prevalent in regard to the medicinal use of this article, is far from being justified by facts. The result of our experience appears to be that the colica pictonum is produced by a long-continued action of the lead on the system, which gradually deranges the digestive functions, impairs the secretions, and induces costiveness; and never, or very rarely, by its use in decisive doses and for a limited time. Doses of one, and even two drachms of the acetate, have been taken at once, and followed by no effect but purging; and there can be little doubt that, in cases indicating its employment, much larger doses than those in common use may be exhibited with advantage.

**FEMORAL ANEURISM CURED WITHOUT AN OPERATION.**

THE Provincial Gazette contains the history of a femoral aneurism which was cured by pressure. The tumor was enormous, and the distressed patient incapable of walking without a crutch. A flannel roller was first applied, so as to produce moderate pressure on the aneurismal tumor. A few days after, on the 27th of September, the swelling had subsid-

ed, and it was discovered that so great was his relief from the bandage, that he had tied a silk handkerchief tight round the thigh, for the purpose of increasing the pressure. Mr. Syfred, the Surgeon of the Hospital, applied a tourniquet and splint, and on the 8th of October every vestige of the disease was removed. That this case is related in the March number of the Provincial, is our only evidence that the cure was permanent.

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BOSTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1829.

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**TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO MR. COOPER.**  
OUR readers probably recollect that much excitement was produced, a few months ago, in the British metropolis, by a garbled report in the Lancet of an operation for the stone, performed by Mr. Bransby Cooper. Some difficulties which were unexpected, rendered the operation of greater duration than usual, and the opportunity was not lost by the Editor of the Lancet, to gratify his propensity to vilify Sir Astley and his distinguished relative. Mr. B. Cooper instituted a suit against Wakley, Editor of the Lancet, for a libel, and recovered, with 100 pounds damages. We learn with pleasure that the students of Mr. C. have presented him a silver vase, with their congratulations on the successful result of this suit. Such testimony of respect is alike honorable to both parties, and was unquestionably called for by the peculiar circumstances of the case. Mr. Cooper's cause is that of the profession in general; and his tri-

umph is that of justice and good principle over the mean arts of envy and malice. If the editor of, or the hireling contributor to a medical paper, is permitted to attend the public hospitals for the purpose of laying before the world garbled and obscure accounts of all such operations as have in any way terminated unfortunately, including the most disgusting details, and exaggerating every circumstance which can tend to reflect discredit on the operator, it is evident that from such attacks no reputation, however good, can afford an entire security. The libel is not merely presented to medical men who may make the necessary inquiries as to the facts; it is read with avidity by the ignorant as well as the learned; and the multitude, ever ready to believe the worst, will give it credit almost in proportion to its grossness. The result of this trial, therefore, as warning malicious slanders that they are not out of the reach of justice, is a benefit to the

whole community ; and the proceeding of the students of Mr. C., by at once testifying their contempt for the libeller and their respect for the object of his malice, evinced a sense of what was due to the dignity of the profession and to the cause of truth and justice. For the particulars of the ceremony, which are highly interesting, we refer to the London Medical Gazette, for May 2d, in which the address of the students, and Mr. C.'s reply, are both given entire.

#### HYPochondriasis.

We are apt to believe a merry companion the happiest fellow in the world, and envy him, perhaps, his light heart and airy spirits ; but such men have hours of melancholy, when the spirits sink, and a gloom comes over them, deeper and darker than is ever known to their less excitable companions. A man may be cheerful on paper, though he has a heavy heart, and brilliant in company, though insufferably wretched when left to commune with his own soul.

The extremes of low and high spirits, which occur in the same person at different times, are happily illustrated by the following case, related by Dr. Rush :—“ A physician, in one of the cities of Italy, was once consulted by a gentleman who was much distressed by a paroxysm of this intermitting state of hypochondriasm. He advised the melancholy man to seek relief in convivial company, and recommended him in particular to find out a celebrated wit by the name of Cardini, who kept all the tables of the city, to which

he was invited, in a roar of laughter, and to spend as much time with him as possible. ‘ Alas ! Sir,’ said the patient, with a heavy sigh, ‘ I am that Cardini.’ ”

#### FOREIGN BODIES IN THE LARYNX MISTAKEN FOR CROUP.

In our number for May 26th, we inserted a communication from Dr. J. V. C. Smith, giving an account of a child whose vision was affected apparently by the irritation of a foreign body in the larynx. In Dr. Smith's interesting detail of this case, it will be recollected that the difficulty was supposed at first to be an attack of croup, and treated as such. Since the publication of the above, we have remarked several cases described, and others referred to, in which the entanglement of foreign substances in the larynx or trachea, have produced symptoms very much resembling those of croup. Dr. Reiche is of opinion that these symptoms are not only most easily, but also most frequently, mistaken for croup. The practical caution to be derived from these instances needs no illustration.

Dr. R. also remarks that the best diagnostic marks by which the croup may be distinguished from the accident alluded to, is the frequent cough, and the peculiar alteration in the sound of the cough and the voice. —We might add, also, a careful inquiry into the history of the case.

#### INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF MERCURY ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE UTERUS.

Six cases are found among the late records of the Paris venereal hospitals, in which abortion was the evi-

dent effect of mercurial treatment. Miscarriages have always been frequent among the inmates of this charity; but they have usually been attributed to the disease rather than its specific remedy. The cases alluded to seem to show very clearly that this explanation is not correct, and that mercury produces an injurious effect on the functions of the impregnated uterus. Dr. Colson, who relates the cases, has also given others to show that this mineral has an effect on the unimpregnated uterus, to interrupt its functions, producing either menorrhagia or amenorrhœa.

#### PARTIAL DISLOCATION OF THE KNEE.

A COOPER, æt. 64 years, was lately carried to the Hospital de la Charité, who had the knee partially dislocated by a fall from a horse. The bones of the thigh and leg formed an angle with each other, the apex of which was inward. The head of the tibia was slipped inward, and the femur outward. Reduction was attempted by extension, but this not succeeding, the operator placed his knee against the projecting extremity of the femur, and then pulled the head of the tibia toward him with great force. The effort succeeded. Soon after, the limb not appearing quite straight, was confined in the apparatus for fractures three weeks, when a degree of deformity remaining, suspicions were entertained that the internal lateral ligament was ruptured. The apparatus, with bandages, and pressure on the inside of the joint, continued a week, were found to remedy the evil; and at

the time of the report, five weeks after the accident, the leg was in proper form, but the patient was unable to walk without the aid of sticks.

#### TALIACOTIAN OPERATION.

This operation has been successfully performed at the Glasgow Infirmary. The subject of it, a lady, æt 37, being destitute of one half of that comely and important feature, the nose, desired, more for convenience than appearance, that the surgical art might try its best to accommodate her with the other half. The right ala and columna remaining, the defective portion was very respectably supplied by cutting a flap from the left side of the forehead, and bringing it down into the proper place. A roll of India rubber preserved the rotundity of the flap, the edges of which were secured by four sutures. The cicatrix on the forehead became very narrow, and the twist of the flap was left undivided, as its prominence added to the beauty of the renovated feature.

#### CANCER OF THE HUMAN MALE BREAST.

A CASE of this description was carried to Guy's Hospital, London. The patient, an unmarried man of 30 years of age, received a blow on the nipple five years before, which was followed by a soft tumor, the size of which gradually increased for two or three years. It was then exposed to several successive blows, became harder, and the seat of lancinating pains. At the time of admission it was the size of a fist, and very hard.

This tumor was removed by Mr. Cooper, and a dissection of it left no doubt of its scirrhoue nature. The patient bore the operation ill, and the reporter says he possessed "a womanly disease, a womanly aspect, and a womanly spirit." We object to this declaration, as unjust and ungenerous to the fair subjects of this disease: the reporter would have evinced a more accurate practical observation of such cases, if he had said of this man, he possessed a womanly disease, a womanly aspect, but not a womanly fortitude!

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#### EXTRACTION OF FOREIGN BODIES FROM THE EAR.

M. DUPUYTREN has invented a very convenient instrument for extracting foreign substances from the meatus auditorius. It is a pair of slender forceps, bent twice at right angles, so as not to obstruct the view of the surgeon into the passage. The extremities of the arms are small and spoon-formed, pierced with fine holes, and roughened with small teeth.

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#### DIFFERENT EFFECT OF POISON ON CARNIVEROUS AND HERBIVEROUS ANIMALS.

By a series of experiments, Professor Mayer, of Bonn, has ascertained that the extract of the coriaria myrtifolia, (myrtle-leaved sumach), which acts as a violent narcotic poison on all carnivorous animals, may be swallowed by those that are herbivorous without injury. Large doses of the extract, given by the mouth, or applied to external wounds, produced on the rabbit, e. g., no sensible effect.

*Fatal Aneurism of the Abdominal Aorta.*—A man, 24 years of age, had occasional fits of vomiting and pain in the belly, and a preternatural fulness was perceptible to the left of the linea alba. He died suddenly. A large quantity of blood was found in the peritoneum; and "in the space between the liver and smaller curvature of the stomach was an aneurismal sac, of the size of a large orange." It had burst anteriorly under the edge of the liver, by an aperture too small to admit the point of the little finger. Dr. Malden is of opinion that the aorta was ruptured during the act of vomiting.—*M. Gaz.*

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#### Medical Publications.—The Editor acknowledges the receipt of the following works:—

Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Character, literary, professional, and religious, of the late JOHN MASON GOOD, F.R.S. F.R.S.L. Mem. Am. Phil. Soc. and F.L.S. of Philadelphia, etc. etc. etc. By OLINTHUS GREGORY, Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military Academy, &c. &c. With the Sermon occasioned by his death, by CHARLES JERRAM, M.A. Boston: Published by Crockier & Brewster, &c. 1829.

Journal des Progrès des Sciences et Institutions Médicales en Europe, en Amerique, &c. 1st vol. Paris, 1829.

Also, the last number of the following periodicals:—

The New-York Medical and Physical Journal; The American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Philadelphia; The Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, edited by Daniel Drake, M.D., Cincinnati, Ohio; The Gazette of Health, edited by Richard Reece, M.D., London.

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#### REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

The week ending June 12, at noon.

Of abscess on the lungs, 1—convulsions, 1—consumption, 4—croup, 1—dropsy in the brain, 1—lung fever, 1—old age, 3—scald, 1—unknown, 4. Males, 10—females, 7. Total, 17.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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**MANUEL FOR THE USE OF  
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**CARTER & HENDEE** have recently published,—A short Treatise on the different Methods of investigating Diseases of the Chest. Translated from the French of M. Collins, by W. N. RYLAND, M.D. From the third London Edition, with Plates, and an Explanatory Introduction, by a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

In preparing for the American press the English translation of the well known and highly useful work of M. Collins, which translation has passed through three editions in England, the Editor thinks he can render it more acceptable by dispensing with the various prefaces and introductory remarks which encumber the last edition, and by substituting in their place an entirely new introduction, which is intended to embrace the amount of all that is important in the prefaces alluded to, as well as that which is contained in various abstracts and reviews which have appeared of treatises upon the different methods of investigating thoracic diseases, and in some other works which are not generally before the profession in this country.

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All letters, post-paid, addressed to J. Lincoln, No. 27, Fayette Street, will be attended to.

Boston, Feb. 6, 1829.

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